



By direction of the Secretary of the Army, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded to:

**1ST BATTALION, 26TH INFANTRY**

for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States:

During the period 11 April 2004 to 12 April 2004, the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry displayed extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit conducted combat patrols in Samarra, Iraq, in order to facilitate the Shia Arb'aeen religious holiday and provide security to the Iraqi people as they celebrated. While conducting their mission, the unit encountered heavy enemy direct and indirect fires. Maintaining mission focus, they proceeded with their mission and effectively destroyed enemy forces attempting to disrupt coalition operations. The unit was decisively engaged with continuous small arms, rocket propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices, and mortar fires from enemy insurgent forces for approximately 12 hours. The unit sustained eight casualties, while inflicting 45 killed in action and wounding approximately 40 more of the enemy insurgents. The personal courage and situational awareness displayed by the unit directly contributed to minimizing the number of friendly casualties, effectively repelling enemy onslaughts, and flawlessly completing their mission. The 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry's outstanding performance of duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflects distinct credit upon the unit, the 1st Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

